Government said that the Municipality should be moved in the matter. The tank in question should be arranged to be restored without further delay.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Moideen Pillai, on the Municipal Council, at present, one of the nominated non-official members represents the Mahomedans. The strength of the Council is 18; and the Council itself considers it inadvisable to increase that strength.

On the Village Panchayat Court, which consists of seven members, there is one Mahomedan. According to the Census, the Mahomedans form about one-ninth of the total population.

It is admitted that a lady doctor is necessary in Changanachery; and, as soon as the Women's Medical Service is extended and more hands are appointed, the appointment of a woman doctor in the Changanachery Hospital will be considered.

For restoring the tank near the mosque, I suggest that the Municipality be moved again; and then Government may be addressed if the Municipality cannot provide sufficient funds for the purpose.

159. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. A. B. MOIDEEN PILLAI (*Nominated*) spoke about the need for promulgating a law for properly administering and controlling the *wakf* properties. These properties were bequeathed by philanthropic Muslims for the common benefit of the community. But the trustees or the members of the family of the testators were utilising the proceeds of the properties for their private ends, with the result that there had been constant disputes in respect of them. If these properties were properly administered, several measures could be adopted for the advancement of the community. The only way of doing this was to promulgate a law on the lines of the British Indian Wakf Act. As a preliminary to such a step, a committee with a Muslim majority, should be constituted to conduct an enquiry and take stock of these properties and submit a report within a specified time.

The grievances of the Muslims as regards their representation in the public service had already been pressed at several sessions of the Assembly and also in the Legislative Council. No doubt the Government have issued circulars to heads of departments to consider the claims of backward and unrepresented communities in making new appointments. They have also appointed a committee to formulate proposals for recruitment to the public service. But the committee did not begin to function. There were only a few graduates in the community. Even among these, only a few had been entertained in service. Those who were in service already were not encouraged by giving promotions. In order to redress the grievances of the community, more men therefrom should be appointed in all the departments of the State.

The early days of every Muslim were devoted to religious education so that when Muslims qualified themselves for Government service they

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became over-aged. This was a bar to their entertainment in the public service. They should therefore be exempted from the rule regarding age-limit for entertainment in the public service for some more time to come.

The Muslims were backward in education. The Government have done something for promoting education among them such as grant of fee concessions and institution of close scholarships. But the grant-in-aid schools were not giving the fee concessions to Muslim pupils. The grant of concessions in these schools also should be arranged for with the managers who should be compensated for the loss caused thereby. The member also said that, if it was a fact that the fee concessions were to be withdrawn, the withdrawal should not be sanctioned.

Primary education should be made compulsory among Muslims.

Grants should be awarded to reading rooms and libraries maintained by Muslims.

There should be at least two Muslims in the Legislative Council to represent the community. According to the existing grouping of constituencies, the Muslims had no chance of being returned in election. The policy of nominating Muslims to remove this defect was not desirable inasmuch as a nominated member could not effectively represent the community as much as an elected member. Separate electorates should therefore be created for the Muslim community. If this could not be done, one more Muslim should be nominated to the Council.

Copies of the *Koran* should be removed from courts. Swearing by the *Koran* was prohibited and therefore the Government by keeping the book for this purpose were affording facilities to the Muslims to do an irreligious act. This was a source of grievance to the community and it should be redressed by ordering the removal of the book from courts.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Moideen Pillai, I must refer you to my answer to the previous speakers in regard to most of the points of your representation. The only point I would add is that exemption from the rule regarding age-limit cannot be given generally; the matter will be placed before the Recruitment Committee.

Under existing orders, Mahomedan pupils, boys and girls, are allowed fee concessions; and special scholarships are also awarded to them.

I have already said that it is not the policy of Government to introduce compulsion in primary education.

In regard to the nomination of two Muslim members to the Legislative Council; there are already two Muslim members, one nominated and the other elected. That seems to be sufficient.

160. Needs of Church of England Christians.

MR. KURUVILA JOHN (*Karunagapalli taluk, Group II*) said that the Church of England Christians formed one of the prominent

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